

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Rink's Womens Apparel Store

and or common Rink Building

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 29 N. Illinois Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana

code 018

county

Marion

code 097

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Sidney D. Eskenazi

925-9011

street &amp; number 2220 N. Meridian Street

city, town Indianapolis

N/A vicinity of

state Indiana 46208

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, City-County Building

street &amp; number 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis

state Indiana

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey Report for  
title Indianapolis/Marion Countyhas this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date 1977

federal state county ☒ local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, 1821 City-County Building, 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46204

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site	
good	ruins	X altered	moved	date N/A
X fair	unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rink Building is located in the Mile Square (the original plat) in an area which has been and is currently a center of high retail and development activity.

The building is a rectangular, commercial building, approximately 120 feet by 70 feet, which rises six stories above the ground to a height of about 100 feet. The building is sited with its long axis in an east-west orientation. The principal facade looks west on Illinois Street. The east facade at the back opens to the service alley. The Illinois Building on the north and the Rost Jewelers store on the south are its neighbors.

The structure is of steel frame, four bays wide by seven long, making a grid of 16'-8" squares. The steel post and beam frame is clad with clay tiles with plaster finish, which provide the necessary fire protection. The floors are of combination structural hollow clay tiles supported by steel purlins and a 2" concrete topping. The side and rear walls are of non-bearing masonry construction. The roof is a mesh-reinforced concrete slab sloping towards the east at 1 3/4" per foot with built-up roofing and gravel ballast.

There are three main components in the main facade of the Rink Building which give it definition and articulation: a base comprising the store front and the second level; an upper facade four stories in height; and a very substantial, highly decorative sheet metal cornice that caps the building. The materials used for the construction of the facade are limestone; copper sheet metal for cornices and spandrel panels; wood for window frames and sashes, and glass.

The first story main facade has been altered. It consists of four bays separated by stone pilasters. The four bays consist of two entrance bays which are the first and third bays from the north end, and two display window bays. The entrances are recessed from the main building structure; the northernmost one is a double, glass-paneled door framed by large glass panels. The other entry has a single door framed by glass panels. A large display window is on the north half of this bay. The display windows in the remaining bays consist of two large glass panels with a metal panel below. Above the glass panels of this story a stone panel intersects the pilasters. A flat roofed awning shelters the store front.

Above the store front, the second story windows and those of the upper floors are original to the building.

At the second level there are eight equal-size windows, each approximately 8 feet wide and 10 feet tall. These windows are operable and each has an operable luxfer glass transom with leaded glass prisms. Below the windows is a decorative metal spandrel panel which extends continuously between the pilasters at each end of the building. Above the transoms, a stone spandrel has a sculptured design at each end, where it intersects with the end pilasters.

A stone cornice separates the two-story, lower level from the four-story upper facade. This cornice is the base of five stone pilasters which extend to the roof cornice and divide the upper stories vertically into four equal areas, each four stories in height.

On each of the upper floors each bay contains a central awning type window, flanked by narrow double-hung sash windows with one-over-one lights. Each of these windows has a luxfer glass transom. Each transom, except for those above the sixth floor windows, is topped by a decorative metal spandrel panel which extends between intermediate pilasters. Above the sixth floor windows, a stone molding, repeating the design of the pilaster capitals, extends across the facade.

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Rink's Womens  
Apparel Store

Continuation sheet

Item number

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The building is capped by an ornate metal cornice. Atop the cornice, five finials are positioned in line with the five pilasters of the upper stories. There is cresting between the finials. An inscribed "R" is directly below each of the finials.

The east facade is of brick. At each floor there are double-hung metal sash windows with wired glass lights. Similar windows exist in the north and south walls of the upper floors.

Originally built as a department store, the Rink Building had an interior which was almost free of partitions. Very few of the partitions which exist today are original to the building. Two penthouses at the southeast corner and two central bays along the south wall house the existing fire rated stairs, the freight elevator, the original public stairs, and the passenger elevators, respectively. The fire stairs at the southeast corner of the building, the freight elevator shaft, and the mechanical rooms of the lower level appear to be original.

The ceiling of the second floor still has the original decorative plaster cove moldings. Similar details on the first floor are hidden by the acoustic tile dropped-ceilings of later remodelings.

The upper floors are void of decor. Their walls and ceilings are plainly finished with plaster. The flooring materials for the street and lower levels are terrazzo and vinyl tile on concrete, respectively. The upper floors have tongue and groove hardwood flooring laid on wood subflooring directly applied to the structural slab.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	X commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater	
X 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates 1910

Builder Architect Adolf Scherrer

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A commercial building of classical design, the Rink Building is significant for its architectural features and for its high integrity. It is also significant as the home for 29 years of a major downtown women's store, which was an integral part of the early development of the downtown area for 53 years.

### Architecture

The Rink Building was built in 1910 to house the rapidly growing Rink's Cloak House. It is typical of early turn-of-the-century commercial structures with classical elements such as pilasters and entablatures with projecting cornices. The architectural style is influenced by the Chicago School of architecture in the window treatment of one large single pane window flanked by double-hung sash windows. The luxfer glass transoms above the second through sixth story windows have become increasingly rare in recent years. Due to its skeleton frame construction, the building was noted for its large open spaces. It was totally furnished with mahogany interior fixtures designed in the latest style (these are no longer in the building). The structure's exterior remains unaltered, except for the storefront level, and retains much of its architectural integrity, while many buildings of the same era in the Mile Square have been demolished or extensively altered. The Rink Building is also important for its contribution to the historic character of this part of Illinois Street.

### Commerce

The Rink's Cloak House was one of the first exclusive women's cloak houses in the nation. It was founded in 1888 by Joseph Rink, who had been employed for ten years by the M. H. Spade Company, a drygoods store. He gained a reputation as one of Indianapolis' most enterprising and successful entrepreneurs, and also owned a drygoods store and valuable real estate.

Occupying a 20' x 40' second story room on Washington Street, Rink's prospered and within a year moved to a larger shop in the ground floor of the Windsor Apartment Building, located on the southwest corner of Illinois and Market Streets. The store became known throughout the state and soon occupied two-thirds of the ground floor of the Windsor Apartments. The store not only carried high grade cloaks, but also was the only store in Indiana that made seal and other fur garments to order.

In 1910, the store moved into its newly constructed building (the subject of this nomination) in order to meet the demands of its growing business. A grand opening for the public was held on October 10, 1910, and the Indianapolis Star reported that 35,000 people attended the gala with orchestra music and flowers everywhere. The Rink Building followed the new department store plan, initiated in this city by L. S. Ayres and Company, of placing each retail department on a different floor. Rink's departments included millinery, furs, evening gowns, children's apparel, and a beauty salon. By the 1930's, Rink's extensive and choice merchandise was attracting fashion-conscious ladies from all over the region. However, due to unexpected financial difficulties, Rink's closed its doors in 1939, after 53 years as one of the major women's stores of the city. Now vacant, the building has most recently been used as the annex for the G. C. Murphy Company, which is located next door.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Indianapolis Illustrated, 1893, Indianapolis Central Library, Consolidated Publishing Co.  
Indianapolis News, July 7, 1980.  
Preliminary Planning Study for the Rink Building, by Robert E. Dinsmore.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	7	2	0	0	0	4	4	0	2	1	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

North one-half, Lot 3, South one-half of Lot 2, Square 55, Donation Lands of the Town, now City of Indianapolis.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale E. Ankrom, President

Mark Mitchell

organization Cast Design Group, Inc.

date 5-25-84

street & number 2511 E. 46th Street, Suite F-3

telephone 317/545-3839

city or town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46205

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

J. T. Costello

title Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

date 8-17-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Rink's Womens Apparel Store  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/572000/4402120

